

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02792 041211Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13

ACDA-07 /092 W

-----041214Z 125341 /50

O R 041123Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3821

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US

SUBJ: ERITREAN REQUEST FOR DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 100281

1. WE HAVE NOT SEEN ABU DHABI 1231 AND ARE THEREFORE UNAWARE OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO MESSAGE. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, GREAT RESERVATIONS ABOUT WISDOM OF ANY CONTACTS AT ALL WITH ERITREAN INSURGENTS, EXCEPT THROUGH THIRD PARTIES, PARTICULARLY OSMAN SALEH SABBE WHO HAS PENCHANT FOR MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND IN OUR JUDGMENT COULD NOT BE TRUSTED TO KEEP ANY CONTACT TO HIMSELF IF HE THOUGHT IT SERVED HIS PURPOSE

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TO GO PUBLIC.

2. WE HAVE HITHERTO REFRAINED FROM DIRECT CONTACT (EXCEPT ON ONE OCCASION) WITH ERITREANS. GRANTED THAT ASMARA CONGEN IS NOW CLOSED AND OUR POSITION HERE HAS NOW CHANGED, WE DO NOT FRANKLY SEE WHAT IS TO BE GAINED BY OPENING SOME KIND OF DIALOGUE WITH THEM NOW. IMPACT

ON WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR POSITION HERE, SHOULD ETHIOPIANS FIND OUT (AND IN OUR JUDGMENT, THEY EVENTUALLY WILL), COULD BE DEVASTATING. AS DEPT AWARE, ETHIOPIANS ARE ALREADY ACCUSING US OF SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS WITHOUT HAVING ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC TO GO ON THAN OUR ANNOUNCED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR SUDAN AND OBVIOUS TIES WITH CERTAIN OTHER ARAB "ENEMIES." MOREOVER, THEY ARE NOT ABOVE INVENTING STORIES, SUCH AS ERITREAN ATTENDANCE AT RECENT EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMISSION MEETING. SHOULD WORD REACH THEM THAT WE ARE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH ERITREANS, FOR WHATEVER REASON (AND ETHIOPIANS WILL NEVER BUY RATIONALE THAT WE ARE JUST LISTENING TO WHAT ERITREANS HAVE TO SAY), WE WILL ONCE AGAIN, AND IN SPADES, HEAR ABOUT MACHINATIONS OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS, ONLY THIS TIME THEY WILL HAVE SOMETHING CONCRETE TO GO ON.

3. WE THEREFORE URGE RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONS
REFTEL. IN TIME, IT MAY BE USEFUL FOR US TO TALKS
DIRECTLY WITH ERITREANS, BUT THAT TIME IS NOW NOW IN
OUR JUDGMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS02792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770156-0450
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770598/aaaadgay.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 77 STATE 100281
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SAS ID: 2650578
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Subject: ERITREAN REQUEST FOR DIALOGUE
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US, ELF, (SABBE, OSMAN SALEH)
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Type: TE
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